MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

8 DECEMBER 1981

Libya

According to JANA, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi told the U.S. television network ABC that his country rejects U.S. allegations that Libya has sent an assassination squad to the United States to kill President Ronald Reagan, and he challenged the U.S. administration to produce evidence in support of the claim. Calling the U.S. President a "liar," Al-Qadhdhafi said Reagan believes the allegations because he is "both silly and ignorant." Asked about the motives behind the U.S. accusations, Al-Qadhdhafi replied that because Libya refuses to become a vassal of the United States, it is classified as an enemy.

Al-Qadhdhafi went on to assert that Libya still wants to establish good relations with the United States and is prepared to hold a dialogue "at any level." However, he then added that Libyan-U.S. relations cannot improve until the American people decide to dispose of Reagan, and he urged them to work for Reagan's downfall through political action. Al-Qadhdhafi also accused the CIA of exploiting Libyan students in the United States, saying it had succeeded in recruiting 30 of them.

Inter-Arab Affairs

WAKH reported an announcement by UAE Petroleum and Natural Resources Minister Dr Man'i Sa'id al-'Utaybah that the OAPEC conference had been postponed indefinitely after holding only one session. WAKH had earlier reported the adjournment of the session so that delegates could hold further consultations after Libya asked that discussion of Tunisia's membership application be postponed. WAKH cited conference sources as stating that all efforts to convince Libya to change its position had failed.

Israel

Cheysson Visit -- According to Jerusalem radio, French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson told a dinner hosted by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir that there will be no European initiative on the Middle East as long as Francois Mitterrand is President of France and that the Venice declaration "is already behind us." He added, however, that a people live in the area who have not found their identity and their home and that Israel should recognize this.

Jerusalem radio's English service broadcast a statement Cheysson made after the dinner to reporters in which he explained that his remarks meant that it is up to the countries of the Middle East region to decide on their own future. Reporting details of his statement, the radio noted that Cheysson added that the Venice delcaration had been "wrong and absurd" to ignore the progress made by the Camp David agreements. Cheysson also noted that the four European countries that have agreed to participate in the Sinai Multinational Force and Observers are still discussing their response to the U.S.-Israeli statement on conditions for participating countries.

IDF had earlier reported that on arriving in Israel Cheysson stated his determination to close the gap between Israel and France on various issues.

Rafah Resident Killed -- Jerusalem radio reported the death of a resident of the Gaza Strip town of Rafah during a demonstration. The radio later said an investigation revealed that the death occurred during a clash between an army squad and the demonstrators. It noted that a general commercial strike has been taking place in the town to protest the new Civilian Administration. Security forces later declared the Gaza district a closed area and prohibited the entry of journalists, the radio reported.

Syria

TISHRIN on Strategic Cooperation -- According to Monte Carlo radio, TISHRIN said the states of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front should conclude a strategic cooperation agreement with the Soviet Union in order to counter the U.S.-Israeli memorandum of understanding on strategic cooperation. Monitored Syrian media have not been observed to report this TISHRIN statement.

Clashes With Muslim Brotherhood -- Voice of Lebanon radio reported that since the 29 November car bomb explosion in Damascus, clashes have occurred daily between Syrian Army forces and the Muslim Brotherhood in the main Syrian towns, including Aleppo and Hamah.

Gulf Affairs

WAKH reported that Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky was received by Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah and later noted Kreisky's talks with Acting Prime Minister Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah. A subsequent WAKH report said the two sides issued a press statement at the conclusion of the talks in which Austria welcomed the establishment of the Gulf Cooperation Council and both sides affirmed that the security and stability of the Gulf region are the responsibility of the countries of the region alone. The statement also affirmed the need for PLO participation in efforts to achieve Middle East peace.

Abu Dhabi radio later reported Kreisky's arrival in the UAE on the last leg of his tour of the region and WAKH said he met with UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al-Nuhayyan.

Iran

Khomeyni, Others on Arrests, Seizures -- In a message to the Supreme Judicial Council and the revolution prosecutor general's office, broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni called on the judicial authorities to take immediate action to investigate illegal seizures of property and detention of people and their families by "unauthorized persons." The radio subsequently broadcast a circular issued by Prosecutor General Hoseyn Musavi-Tabrizi that enjoined the judicial authorities and revolution guards to avoid issuing warrants for the arrest of individuals without conducting the necessary investigations and considering sufficient evidence. It also reminded guards and local security committees that they are not entitled to impound property without lawful authorization and called for an immediate review of such actions to date. In a similar vein, Supreme Court President Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili said in a press conference reported by the radio that no one from government or revolutionary organizations should violate the law. Regarding the punishment of political dissidents, he said demonstrators or critics of the regime will not be sentenced to death, since only those who stage armed rebellion against the Islamic Republic will be executed. He also said that courts generally consider 18 years as the minimum age for the purpose of trials and executions, even though the legal limit is 16 years.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

An Iraqi Armed Forces communique broadcast by Baghdad radio claimed that in continuing clashes in the Susangerd region, Iraqi forces killed more than 290 Iranians. On the other hand, the daily Iranian Joint Staff communique carried by Tehran radio claimed Iranian forces successfully repulsed an Iraqi attack in the Susangerd region.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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PDPA SEVENTH PLENUM SESSION HELD IN KABUL

LD060700 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0504 GMT 6 Dec 81

[Text] Kabul, 5 Dec (BAKHTAR) -- The Seventh Plenum of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan was held here today with the inaugural speech of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, at the headquarters of the Revolutionary Council. In this plenum a number of decisions were taken on issues pertaining to the party.

In this plenum, chaired by Dr Saleh Mohammad Ziray, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA, Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of the Revolutionary Council, presented a report on the activities of the party in the interim between the Sixth and Seventh Plenums which was repeatedly applauded by the participants.

After the presentation of the report by Babrak Karmal, [word indistinct] member of the Central Committee of the PDPA, and Sayed Taher Shah Paykargar, alternate member of the Central Committee of the PDPA, delivered speeches regarding the report of the session and reaffirmed (?it).

The second part of the session was held under the chairmanship of Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA. In this part of the session, Feda Mohammad Dehneshin, member of the Central Committee of the PDPD, Baba Jan, alternate member of the PDPA CC, Mir Saheb Karwal, member of the PDPA CC and Abdorrashid Waziri, alternate member of the PDPA CC and Sulayman La'eq, member of the Central Committee of the PDPA highly evaluated the report in the party life.

The third part of the session of the Seventh Plenum was held under the chairmanship of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee [words indistinct]. In this part of the session Nur Ahmad Nur, member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee read the draft resolution of the Seventh Plenum which was then unanimously approved.

Later, Dr S.M. Ziray, member of Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, read the draft declarations addressed to tribes and nationalities in the DRA which were also unanimously approved.

The Seventh Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee ended with a concluding speech by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA. The full proceedings of the session will be published later.

KABUL REPORTS ON MILITARY REENLISTMENTS

LD080614 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] A large number of troops, who have completed their term of service in the DRA Armed Forces and sarandoy, were discharged throughout the capitals and provinces today.

Reports reaching us say that a number of these courageous men, despite the fact that they have completed their service with courage and bravery, after receiving their discharge papers offered to continue their service in the armed forces in order to defend the Sawr Revolution, the Afghan people and the beloved homeland.

The BAKHTAR correspondent reports that a number of sarandoy men in the 2nd and 7th security wards in Kabul city were discharged from military service today at a ceremony. A number of officials recalled with appreciation the courage of the troops and their service in maintaining security and defending the gains of the Sawr Revolution, in particular its new development stage. They praised the troops who are continuing their service in the sarandoy units and wished them success in their sacred tasks.

VICE PRESIDENT HOSTS BANQUET FOR USSR'S KUZNETSOV

BK080317 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 Dec 81

[Text] Vice President Hidayatullah has said that India and the Soviet Union had been enduring partners in mutual progress and prosperity. He expressed the hope that this relationship would contribute to peace and stability throughout the world. The vice president was speaking at a dinner hosted by him in honor of the Soviet parliamentary delegation in New Delhi last night. The delegation, led by Soviet Vice President V.V. Kuznetsov, is on a 9-day good-will visit to India.

Hidayatullah affirmed that, apart from the wide-ranging economic and technological cooperation, there are strong cultural and intellectual bonds between the two countries. [Words indistinct] of the 1971 Soviet-Indian peace treaty has opened a new chapter in their relations. Hidayatullah observed that it assumes added significance in view of the fast deteriorating world situation.

DELHI REPORTS GANDHI TO VISIT PRC 'SHORTLY'

BK041600 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Dec 81

[Text] The prime minister will visit China shortly. Giving this information to the Rajya Sabha today, External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao said she has accepted the invitation although the timing is yet to be decided. He told the house that the invitation to Mrs Gandhi was extended by the foreign minister on behalf of the Chinese premier during his visit to India in June this year. Later, the invitation was personally conveyed to Mrs Gandhi by him when the two leaders met at Cancun in October.

DELEGATION LEAVES FOR BORDER TALKS WITH PRC

BK071310 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] A six-member Indian delegation led by Eric Gonsalves, secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, left New Delhi for Beijing for talks with China on the border issue.

TIBETAN GROUP WARNS INDIA OF TALKS WITH PRC

OW071658 Hong Kong AFP in English 1411 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] New Delhi, 7 Dec (AFP) -- A representative body of exiled Tibetans today warned the Indian Government that it would not remain in a "silent spectator" if any Sino-Indian border agreement was reached "at the cost of Tibet and Tibetans."

[Words indistinct] emphatically say that the six million Tibetans under the leadership of the Dalai Lama will not be silent spectators if any agreement is reached at the forthcoming Sino-Indian talks in Beijing, the Tibetan Youth Congress (TYC) said in a letter addressed to the Indian (?foreign) minister. The text of the letter was released to the press.

"The government and the people of India must recapitulate that before 1959 Tibet was a fully independent [words indistinct] between the two Asian giants, and the border issue must be determined at first in accordance with the wishes of the six million Tibetans both inside and outside Tibet," the TYC, which claims a membership of about (?16,000) young Tibetans, said.

An Indian official delegation left [passage indistinct].

Though India gave political asylum to the Dalai Lama when he fled his homeland in 1959, New Delhi does not accord any sovereign status to Tibet. The Indian Government has reiterated many times that it considers Tibet a part of China.

However, the 100,000 self-exiled Tibetans, spread all over the country in [words indistinct] have been holding demonstrations against the Chinese [words indistinct] militants among them pledge that one day they will successfully start "a liberation war" inside Tibet.

PRESIDENT SANJIVA REDDY PAYS VISIT TO INDONESIA

For coverage of President Sanjiva Reddy's visit to Indonesia, including a banquet for him hosted by Indonesian President Suharto and his talks with Indonesian Foreign Minister Mokhtar Kusumaatmaja, see the Indonesia section of the 8 December Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT.

SECURITY MEASURES IN IMPHAL TIGHTENED

BK071611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] Security measures in and around Imphal have been tightened up to curb extremist activities. PTI, quoting official sources, says that armed pickets have been deployed in vulnerable areas and round-the-clock patrolling is carried on by security forces.

Seven persons, suspected to be extremists, were arrested yesterday and one country pistol and ammunition were seized from them. Police personnel in different outposts have been alerted to check infiltration or escape of insurgents.

STATESMAN URGES GANDHI TO CALL ZIA'S 'BLUFF'

BK040745 Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 27 Nov 81 p 8

[Editorial: "Calling Zia's Bluff"]

[Text] Without discounting the strong probability that Pakistan's suggestion of "mutual guarantees of nonaggression and nonuse of force" was only a propagandist tactic, it must be admitted that India's response to it has been singularly inept. The latest statements by Mrs Gandhi and Mr Narasimha Rao suggest not only second thoughts but also a defensive attitude that is unlikely to impress opinion at home or abroad. The prime minister's initial contention that a country could not prepare for war and talk of peace at one and the same time was entirely valid as an academic observation. But it fell short of political reality inasmuch as it is only when two nations are inspired by rivalry, and undertake rearmaments programmes as a consequence, that peace agreements become necessary. There would not otherwise have been any reason to recommend detente between the USA and USSR, and not between, say, Britain and France. New Delhi's further claim that no formal offer had been received was no doubt intended, and justifiably so, to expose the public relations aspect of Islamabad's gesture. But the impression unfortunately and quite unnecessarily created was that India was trying to evade an embarrassing overture because it did not want to incur international opprobrium by outright rejection of a seemingly conciliatory move.

It would have been far more to the point if Mrs Gandhi had, right at the outset, firmly grasped the nettle and welcomed the no-war pact suggestion in principle, reminding Pakistan and the world that it was not more than a belated reiteration fo offers that this country has made on numerous occasions since 1949. That would not only have confirmed the record of Pakistan's past unwillingness to discuss peace, but also obliged General Ziaul Haq strictly to prove his sincerity. Indian reservations about Pakistani intentions could then have been made clear in subsequent negotiations. Once the idea of a pact had been accepted. New Delhi would have been within its rights to argue that General Zia's $3.2-billion security package, his increasingly close military relationship with the USA and the threat of a Pakistani atomic bomb that he held out during the Turkish head of state's visit to Islamabad, constitute grave impediments to any meaningful talks on nonaggression.

For the record, India might also have insisted that the pact would have to include explicit guarantees, underwritten by the USA, that no item of the arms package would ever be used in subcontinental hostilities; also that General Zia would have to move his troops from the Punjab border where 80 percent of the Pakistani Army is now deployed.

Mrs Gandhi's present willingness to discuss the offer indicates some realization that her initial dismissive reaction was injudicious, though the technical reason is presumably last Sunday's official communication. But it is rather late in the day for the external affairs minister to suggest that Islamabad's offer is to be treated as acceptance of the proposals made by New Delhi several years ago. Apart from such a thing as a time bar, Pakistan can use the same specious logic to argue that those exchanges came to an end when a similar suggestion reportedly made by Ayub Khan was, apparently, ignored. Delving into history serves little purpose though neither country can afford to overlook its lessons in fashioning future policy. The onus on Mrs Gandhi is all the greater for she can take independent action whereas General Zia must bear in mind not only his precarious domestic position but also the compulsions of U.S. strategy in Asia. She may have made a bad beginning in the present round, but can even now retrieve the position by taking General Zia at his word and fully exploring the scope for an amicable arrangement.

BRIEFS

COFFEE EXPORT TO USSR -- New Delhi, 3 Dec (AFP) -- India is to export green coffee worth 500 million rupees (over $62 million) to the Soviet Union during the next year under an agreement signed here today. The Soviet Union, one of the largest customers for Indian coffee, will buy 2,000 tons more than the 23,000 tons it imported last year. During 1980-81, India's earnings from coffee exports reached a record of 2,150 million rupees (over $268 million). The exports included 1,300 tons value-added instant coffee for USSR, an official release issued here said. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1256 GMT 3 Dec 81 BK]

APRIL-SEPTEMBER EXPORTS, IMPORTS -- New Delhi, 2 Dec (AFP) -- India's exports during the first 6 months, April-September, of the current financial year, 1981-82, has risen by 16.6 percent over the same period last year and its imports has shown a small decline of three percent during the same period. According to junior Commerce Minister K.A. Khan, the export earning during this period was over 33,264 million rupees (over $4,158 million) against 28,538 million rupees (over $3,567 million) while imports amounted to 56,067 million rupees (about $7,008 million) compared with 57,816 million rupees ($7,227 million). In a written reply, the minister told the upper house of parliament on Tuesday that the exports in the latter half of the year were normally more than the first-half. In reply to a question whether it would be possible to achieve the export target of 84,000 million rupees ($10,500 million) for the current financial year, Mr Khan stated: "In the context of the prevailing environment in international markets, it is difficult to give a precise assessment." [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 1446 GMT 2 Dec 81 BK]

ORE CONTRACT WITH BAHRAIN -- New Delhi, 25 Nov (AFP) -- India has signed a long-term agreement with Bahrain for exporting 1.5 million tonnes of iron ore concentrates per annum to the Arab iron and steel company. The letter of intent giving effect to the agreement, under negotiation for over a year, was received here yesterday, according to the daily "ECONOMIC TIMES." The supplies of concentrates to Bahrain from the Kidremukh iron ore company in south India would begin from 1984. [Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0756 GMT 25 Nov 81 BK]

SPOKESMAN REITERATES NUCLEAR PROGRAM 'PEACEFUL'

PM081143 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 6 Dec 81 p 1

[Sabud al-Harbi report: "Pakistani Information Minister Tells AL-JAZIRAH Turkish Newspapers Did Not Understand President Ziaul Haq's Affirmation of Pakistan's Right To Develop Nuclear Technology in Services of Islam and Peace"]

[Text] An official spokesman of the Pakistani Ministry of Information has denied recent reports regarding Pakistan's nuclear program. In an exclusive statement to AL-JAZIRAH, he said that Pakistani President Ziaul Haq has said that Pakistan is exercising its legitimate right to develop nuclear programs only for its own peaceful purposes. The spokesman strongly denounced the misunderstanding by some of the journalists who interviewed the Pakistani president and attributed to him statements which he did not make during his discussion of the Pakistani nuclear program.

Continuing, the spokesman said that the president's emphasis on Pakistan's right to develop nuclear technology was misinterpreted as a trend toward the production of a nuclear bomb.

Asked by AL-JAZIRAH about what Turkish newspapers have said about Pakistan's intention to produce a nuclear bomb and its ability to do so, the spokesman said that all that has been said on this subject is biased propaganda. Pakistan has absolutely no intention of doing this and its effort is devoted only to obtaining nuclear technology, which is its legitimate right under international law.

Continuing, the spokesman said that in his published interview the Pakistani president expressed surprise at the fact that the developed world is denying the developing world the right to obtain this technology, which serves many fields of industry, communications electricity and public services.

Regarding the idea of an Islamic bomb and Pakistan's adoption of this idea, the spokesman reaffirmed that all this is the work of states hostile to Islam and peace and is part of a plan seeking to block the progress which the entire Islamic nation is anticipating.

CANADIAN DELEGATION VISITS REFUGEE CAMP

BK030407 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Dec 81

[Text] The four-member Canadian International Development Agency delegation visited an Afghan refugee camp near Peshawar yesterday. Addressing the Afghan refugees, the delegation leader said that the only solution to the Afghanistan issue is that Soviet troops should completely withdraw and a government should be formed in accordance with the wishes of the Afghan people. He said that all independence-loving nations of the world are concerned about the miserable condition of the Afghan people.

Supports Pakistani Stand

BK050358 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 5 Dec 81

[Text] Canada fully supports Pakistan's demand that the Afghan problem should be settled politically and that the Soviet troops should withdraw. This was stated by (James Taylor), Canada's deputy minister of state for foreign affairs, while addressing a reception in Karachi last night. He said Canada wants the creation of conditions in Afghanistan that would enable the Afghan refugees to go back to their homes with honor and dignity. We said the Afghan people have the right to elect their own government. He also commended Pakistan for providing aid to 2.5 million Afghan refugees on humanitarian grounds.

RELIGIOUS LEADER DEFIES MARTIAL LAW BAN

BK051658 Hong Kong AFP in English 1631 GMT 5 Dec 81

[Text] Karachi, 5 Dec (AFP) -- A senior Pakistani politician today called for an end to the martial law regime in the country and demanded that the military rulers hold early general elections.

Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, a religious leader who heads the outlawed politico-religious party called Jamiat ul-Ulema i-Islam, addressed the Karachi Bar Association in defiance of a martial law ban on all forms of political activities.

He said that the fundamental human rights, now suspended under martial law, should be restored immediately because there was no justification for such a suspension. He said that in Islam fundamental human rights can never be taken away from a person under any circumstances.

Maulana Noorani, who was externed by the military regime from Punjab Province for making similarly critical speeches last week, said that there was no contradiction between democracy and Islamic principles. In fact, the government in an Islamic country must be elected democratically by its people.

There was no room for a military dictatorship in an Islamic society, he added. Maulana Noorani said there was no validity in the military government's arguments that general elections could not be held because of the dangers across the borders. There was no immediate crisis in Pakistan's relations with any of its neighbours, he said.

Maulana Noorani added that the national unity could be strengthened only under a popularly elected government.

EXPLOSION IN SIKH TEMPLE IN PUNJAB KILLS 3

GF060811 Lahore JANG in Urdu 30 Nov 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, 29 Nov (APP/PPA) -- Three persons were killed in a bomb explosion in Mehta Chowk in Punjab today. The explosion occurred in the Guru Darshan temple, which is considered the headquarters of Sikh leader Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindarewalan, who was accused of murder but was released several weeks ago for lack of evidence. Sant Jarnail Singh was not in the temple at the time of explosion. It is not known whether the bomb was meant for him or if gunpowder stored in the temple caught fire accidentally. Sant Jarnail Singh belongs to the Sikh faction that is demanding Khalistan. According to a UPI report, the explosion at Chowk Mehta, a point 400 km from here, killed three persons and caused some damage to the gurdwara [Sikh temple]. The news agency, quoting official sources, has added that Sant Jarnail Singh was not in the temple at the time of the explosion.

POLICE CONFISCATE GUNS AT KARACHI UNIVERSITIES

BK071730 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] An official handout issued in Karachi today says as a result of the search conducted by the police in Karachi University and the(N.G.) engineering university, a Sten gun with magazines and 11 rounds and a revolver with five rounds were recovered. A police team is investigating the matter.

Meanwhile, a student who was injured in the recent firing incident at the Karachi University has died in hospital. The deceased has been identified as (Shawkat Cheema). The police have registered a case against the unknown accused.

CABINET DISCUSSES ECONOMIC PLANS, PROBLEMS

LD071322 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Excerpt] The Cabinet held a meeting this morning. According to a Central News Unit report, the meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, began with a recital from the Koran and then reviewed reports from battlefronts and other political issues. Later, Mohammad Taqi Banki, the minister of state in charge of the Plan and Budget Organization, reported on his recent visit to Qom and his meeting with His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri. He said: Having submitted the prime minister's message to His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri, we made an official request, asking him to name representatives from the Qom theological district to the committees responsible for preparing timetables for the country's economic infrastructure.

The minister of state then added: His Eminence Ayatollah Montazeri, having emphasized the need to formulate plans for the expansion of the country's economy which are compatible with Islamic standards, agreed to submit a council to the government comprised of clergymen and teachers at Qom theological seminary to cooperate in formulating economic plans for the country.

The Cabinet also debated the constitution of the Economic Mobilization Headquarters, which has already been confirmed by the Mobilization and the Economic Council. After some changes the constitution was then ratified. Emphasizing the need for the continued operation of the Economic Mobilization Headquarters, the Cabinet approved the membership of the minister of housing and urban development and the deputy prime minister for institutions in the Headquarters.

On the basis of the job descriptions of the Economic Mobilization Headquarters, which were approved today by the Cabinet, the Headquarters is required to review economic difficulties and crises stemming from the imposed war and the overt and covert economic blockade and then communicate urgent solutions to related organizations to counter the crises.

SOVIET ENVOY, BANK GOVERNOR DISCUSS BARTER

LD042132 Tehran PARS in English 0942 GMT 4 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Tehran, 3 Dec, PARS -- Ambassador of the Soviet Union to the Islamic Republic of Iran, Vladimir Vinogradov, met and conferred with the governor of the Central Bank of Iran, Mohsen Nurbakhsh, on Wednesday [2 December] afternoon. In this meeting they talked about economic relations between the two countries and discussed barter account between Iran and the USSR.

KHOMEYNI ORDERS ACTION ON ENCROACHMENT INCIDENTS

LD071202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Dec 81

["Text" of message from Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, to the Supreme Judicial Council and the revolution prosecutor general's office on 7 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. To the esteemed Supreme Judicial Council and the revolution prosecutor general's office. Recent reports show that unauthorized individuals and probably individuals linked with deviant groups as well as, at times, authorized persons encroach upon people's property, contrary to Islamic and civil law, and take it upon tnemselves to divide and appropriate it.

There are times when without any religious or legal authorization they enter homes and detain the people, and if it so happens that the person in question is not available they detain his dependents. There have also been times when on various pretexts, they have inflicted indignities and disgrace on people. By resorting to such irreligious acts, they demean the Islamic Republic and the judicial authorities.

Please issue instructions to the state inspectorate organization to promptly investigate the matter and report to the judicial authorities. Once the reports are made available to the prosecutors' offices, the judicial authorities must attend to them immediately. The persons or groups committing such irreligious and illegal acts must be summoned, and when their offense has been proved they must be punished. I must be kept informed about these issues. That is all.

Prosecutor General's Circular

LD071818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Islamic Republic of Iran's prosecutor general's office has issued a circular addressed to all revolutionary prosecution offices in Iran and all the Islamic revolution courts within the [Islamic Revolution Guards] Corps. The text of the circular reads as follows:

In accordance with the important decree issued by the Islamic nation's imam, the leader of the Iranian Islamic revolution, this is to draw the attention of all the prosecutors, assistant prosecutors and investigating magistrates of the Islamic revolution prosecution offices as well as the Guards Corps' Islamic revolution prosecution offices and the relevant representatives throughout the country to the following points:

1. The issuance of summonses and warrants for the arrest of individuals without the necessary investigations and without considering sufficient documents and evidence should be strictly avoided. Even when there are evidence and documents relating to persons other than the minigroups or individuals who have waged war against God, the issuance of warrants for the arrest of individuals whose release from jail is possible by securing a surety or bail bond should be avoided as far as possible.

2. The guards from the Corps and the [local Islamic security] committees are not entitled in any way whatsoever to summon, seize, arrest, inspect homes or seize and hold property without lawful authorization from legal authorities. It shall be the duty of the local Islamic revolution prosecution office to prosecute the violators of this injunction.

3. Individuals other than Islamic Revolution Guards Corps members who unilaterally arrest or seize and hold individuals' property shall be severely prosecuted in accordance with the law.

4. With regard to the seizure of mobile and immobile property and freezing of bank accounts, it is necessary to collect the requisite evidence and proof before taking action so as to prevent unwarranted seizures of the people's property and assets and unjustified freezing of bank accounts. Actions which have already taken place must be immediately reviewed and the file should be passed on to the court or the seized property should be released.

5. Return or confiscation of property requires an order issued by the Shari'a magistrate and confirmation in the high court; otherwise it is not valid.

Publication of this statement through the media shall be regarded as its communication to the officials concerned and those who violate this circular will be prosecuted by the office of the revolution prosecutor general.

[Signed] Revolution Prosecutor General of the Islamic Republic of Iran Seyyed Hoseyn Musavi-Tabrizi

ECONOMY, FINANCE MINISTER EXPLAINS NEW TAX BILLS

LD072328 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Interview with Economy and Finance Minister Hoseyn Namazi; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] There is a great deal of talk about the country's economic situation. As the minister of economy and finance could you explain how you evaluate the country's economic situation under the present conditions?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The talk which one hears about the country's economic situation should be evaluated from two viewpoints, one being that some talk emanates from the Western media propaganda and counterrevolutionary elements. It is certain that, in view of their plans, they engage in some propaganda. We should not pay any attention to such propaganda. There are many countries in the world which are in a very bad economic situation. Nothing is said about their economic situation; on the contrary certain things are said in their favor. Last week I read in the reports which I was studying about the economic conditions of various countries in the world that one Western country has incurred a debt of 24.5 billion [currency not stated] during the past months, which is twice its foreign exchange reserves. You know that the Iraqi debt has been estimated up to $20 billion lately. From this point of view our economic situation is much better than that of other countries and we should not pay any attention to the Western media propaganda.

However, it is our duty to know the difficulties as they really are. It is clear that we have some economic problems. We wish in no way to deny these difficulties. The path we have chosen of living in dignity rather than being dominated by the world devourers and superpowers will create some economic difficulties for us. The war which has been imposed upon us has caused a great deal of economic loss in terms of destroying our economic and human resources. Or consider the restrictions on us concerning the export of oil and, naturally, in earning foreign exchange. These obviously create some economic difficulties for us. Also, all the problems associated with the economic embargo create some economic difficulties for us.

However, these difficulties have enabled us to be more active in planning. As the difficulties have worsened, the government has paid more attention to planning and feels the necessity for having exact plans in all sectors which have caused us some problems. For instance, concerning the foreign exchange restrictions, the government was forced to plan carefully and to initiate foreign exchange allocation. This was a blessing in disguise. If we did not have such difficulties and if we had not made such plans, a great deal of our foreign exchange would be drained without any control, as happened in the past. These difficulties help us to become more constructive.

I would also tell you that, according to the forecasts of Western economists, our economy should have been paralyzed a long time ago and we should have faced a deadlock. However, the divine dimension of our revolution and God's grace, which has always assisted this revolution, enabled us to withstand the difficulties with the assistance and self-sacrifice of the people. God willing, we shall continue this steadfastness.

[Question] Last week we learned that the Ministry of Economy and Finance has prepared a bill for an annual tax on property and has presented it to the Cabinet. Please tell us about the principles of this bill and how much government income will increase because of it.

[Answer] The bill concerning an annual tax on property is based on a simple tax law; namely, those who have a larger income should have a greater share in providing for government expenditure.

On the basis of this principle, a number of tax and financial experts have been studying and preparing this bill for some time. It was submitted to the Cabinet last week. Very briefly, according to this bill, the total property belonging to the members of a family will be exempt. The property in excess of that amount will be liable to tax on an increasing scale. This applies to properties situated in (?cities) or towns. In families which have more than four members, for each person up to a maximum of two persons, 250,000 toman will be added to the amount exempted. Under the same principle that those who have a higher income or who have more wealth should pay more taxes so that the pressure is lifted from the low income groups, an amended bill on salaries was submitted to the Cabinet last week along with this bill. This will reduce the amount of exemption on income tax, which will increase the amount of the exemption, and will also reduce the income tax for the low income group.

OIL MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON WAR, OPEC MEETING

LD071348 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] The Central News Unit correspondent reports that Mr Gharazi, minister of petroleum, heading a nine-man delegation from our country, left for Abu Dhabi today to take part in a meeting of OPEC oil ministers. According to this report, this meeting of OPEC oil ministers, which is the second ordinary meeting of these countries' oil ministers this year, will be held this Wednesday. The oil prices approved in the recent session of oil ministers in Geneva and also the long-term plans for oil prices and aid given by OPEC countries and industrial countries to developing countries will be among the points to be discussed. The Central News Unit correspondent reports that oil experts from the 13 member countries will hold a 2-day preparatory meeting beginning today in Abu Dhabi.

Before he left for Abu Dhabi, Mr Gharazi, minister of petroleum, took part in an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent in Ahvaz and commented on the situation on the battlefronts. He said: The two great victories north of Abadan and Bostan had two different results. The victory north of Abadan secured our sovereignty over and the Islamic Republic of Iran's ownership of the oil sources situated to the north of the Persian Gulf, despite the fact that the main reason for the imposition of this war by the United States on the Islamic Republic of Iran was to establish a phoney claimant to the Iranian oil resources. Mr Gharazi described the victory won in Bostan as the factor establishing our political sovereignty in terms of such slogans as "Neither East nor West, but the Islamic Republic." He added that by applying more pressure to Iraq on the battlefronts and by toppling the Ba'thist regime, the Islamic nation will be able to export its Islamic revolution through expanding its cultural slogans.

The petroleum minister commented on the reasons for the recent session of OPEC and Iran's stance at this conference, saying: OPEC holds a conference of oil ministers of member countries every 6 months. This time the long-term use of oil and the difference in rates will be discussed and subjected to an exchange of views. Our petroleum minister added: We believe that oil prices should be based on our internal policies and not on the policies of foreign countries as it has been up to date.

Answering a question as to whether the recent victories gained by the Islamic combatants in the face of the Ba'thist enemy will have any bearing on the decisions made by this conference, he said: Our victories will surely affect the Muslim countries of the Persian Gulf region. Mr Gharazi added: When Iraq appeared as a military power, it disturbed the sovereignty of other countries and today, with the victory of our combatants, other countries will realize that Iran will act carefully and will respect their sovereignty. This will undoubtedly influence the decisions made with regard to oil policies in the Persian Gulf and other countries.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER DENOUNCES 'BRIGHT STAR'

LD071954 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Ahmad 'Azizi on 7 December -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Continuing the Bright Star exercises in the Middle East, the great Satan has begun its military operations in the Persian Gulf. What is your view on this?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Bright Star exercises, the major part of which are being held in Oman, are one of the most dangerous manifestations of the new American military policy since Reagan came to power. We can observe its extensive manifestations in the Middle East and North Africa. These exercises are clearly a flagrant and brazen violation of part of the territories of the Islamic nation, a nation which has recently expanded enormously from Jerusalem to Mecca and Medina, something which we have always stressed. In order to avoid the adverse consequences and results of this move, it is appropriate that all the Islamic countries in the region should, without question, denounce this American move, rather than pressure Oman alone, which is merely a puppet and surrogate. To merely denounce Oman will not bring the result needed; rather it should be U.S. imperialism and its action against the Muslim nation which should be denounced and rejected. Such moves will in no way be ignored by the Islamic nation, whose reaction will no doubt be recalled in the future.

[Question] I referred to the fact that the military exercises in Oman are one of the most dangerous manifestations of the new American militarist policies and of that country's recent policy of intimidation and threat. In order to understand this policy and appreciate why America has resorted to and is pursuing such a policy in the region, we should look at the lapse in time between the first and second Camp David's. The first Camp David was approved during the Carter administration, and we have seen that at the time, Carter was implementing his human rights policy and that, with the deceptive mask of a human rights policy, he sought to dominate the oppressed countries and to crush the Islamic movements in these countries. We further observed that at that time they managed to get approval of the plan more easily and that they faced less resistance. However, thanks to the heightening of the struggles of Muslim peoples throughout the world, particularly in the Middle East and in North Africa, and even more especially in the wake of the victory of the Iranian Islamic revolution, America was compelled to abandon this policy which it realized it could implement, and to pursue instead a policy of direct aggression, accupation and of open military presence with regard to the countries in which America is interested. Lately we have seen the start of the Bright Star exercises, visits by the American secretary of defense to North Africa, Morocco, and Tunisia, as well as the stockpiling of arms on sacred Islamic territories, along with American crew and personnel.

This policy intensified after the defeat of the Fahd plan, which was one of the gravest defeats of American imperialism and its servants in the region. After the defeat of the Fahd plan, America's plot intensified; the U.S.-Israeli strategic treaty reached its final stage and in the wake of this, Habib's visit to the region began; explosions took place in Syria and Beirut, aimed at achieving a favorable opportunity to impose America's policy in the region; attacks by the Iraqi hireling Ba'thist regime and its agents took place in Beirut against the Lebanese Muslims and the oppressed, those who had steadfastly resisted the Fahd plan and had openly and categorically expressed their opposition; the American secretary of defense began his visit to a number of countries in the region in order to mobilize these countries; Saudi Arabia once again played the role of America's broker in some of the countries in the region in order to sell American arms and to further equip the regional countries with American arms -- all this took place on the excuse of Soviet threats.

Thus we can see that America has indeed embarked upon a stage of taking military action against the Muslim nation. But, thanks to God, and as is God's definite promise, these actions will certainly backfire against imperialism itself, and, with the heightening of anti-American feelings in Islamic countries, America will no doubt be compelled to come to its knees before the Muslim peoples and to abandon its policies.

KHAMENE'I DESCRIBES RESULTS OF RECENT 'VICTORIES'

LD071126 Tehran PARS in English 1010 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 7 Dec (PARS NEWS AGENCY) -- President Khamene'i, at the end of the Supreme Defence Council held on Sunday in the presence of Imam Khomeyni, the commander in chief of the armed forces, announced that during the victory of the Islamic defenders more than 2,5000 Iraqi Forces were killed, and about 1,500 were buried in a cemetery which was named "The Cemetery of the Iraqi Ba'thist Aggressors." The president, who is also the head of the Supreme Defence Council, added that the Iranian forces also had captured about 100 tanks intact, and also hundreds of Iraqi soldiers.

The Supreme Defence Council met before Imam Khomeyni Sunday morning following the recent victories to review warfront conditions in the southern fronts which led to the freeing of the city of Bostan. The imam's son, Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, also was present. The head of the Supreme Defence Council added that because the Bostan victory had too much of a strategic impact for the Iraqis now they were struggling to reverse the situation.

President Khamene'i added that in counter-offensive operations Iranian forces gained additional victories such as killing enemy personnel, or retaking parts of the occupied lands. Khamene'i siad that while the Iranian forces had won similar gains in the Abadan operations (on October 4 resulting in complete liberation of the east bank of the Karun River) in this most recent operation a vital logistical life-line of the enemy was cut and an important wedge of land retaken from the aggressors. The loss of this route, he added, meant the Iraqis could not supply or reinforce their troops between the Karkheh and Karun Rivers, near Susangerd or in the Allaho Akbar region. The president said that the enemy not only could not bring in reinforcements from Al-Amarah inside Iraq but also could not shift its forces north or south within Iran as easily as it used to in bolstering forces in the Dezful, Ahwaz, Khuninshahr and Abadan regions when back-up support was needed.

Now, said the president, any forces from the north of Khuzestan or other points north, had to travel several hundred kilometres. Referring to the importance of popular forces in the operations he said that the massive presence of popular forces overwhelmed and terrified the Iraqi forces.

President Khamene'i then said that the operations freed up to 300 square kilometres of lands occupied by the aggressor enemy, although some Iraqi forces were still in pockets in a part of the north bank of the Neysan River and south of the Sableh Bridge which would be eliminated shortly. Referring to the amounts of casualties, captives and munitions that the Iraqis abandoned while escaping, the president said that the abandoned munitions included more than 100 undamaged tanks, tens of far-range artillery, personnel carriers, bulldozer, some weapons and other munitions. The president said that some combatants in the fronts said that the Iraqi dead count had reached 2,500, about 1,500 of whom were buried. He added that about 500 captives had been transferred to Tehran on Saturday.

The president said that in the west there had been an enemy attack in the Ilam region a few days ago that was responded to by the Islamic forces though at present there were only artillery exchanges between the two sides. The president concluded by hoping that the Iraqi youth would be captured rather than being killed since they were the youth of a Muslim nation.

MAJLIS DEPUTIES SPEAK ON BOSTAN 'VICTORY'

LD061218 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Dec 81

[Excerpts] A Central News Unit correspondent reports that in a preagenda speech at today's session of the Majlis, Mir Yunes Erfani, the deputy for Talesh, praised the latest victories achieved by the Islamic warriors. Addressing the combatants he said: You have given hope to the oppressed nations and peoples of various lands and occupied Palestine. Soon you will be heading for Jerusalem and Palestine through the Jerusalem path. God willing, it is you who will liberate Jerusalem from the filth of Zionism, rather than the Camp David accords, Fahd's American-inspired plan, the insignificant Arab summit conferences or the Saudi Phantoms and AWACS planes operated by American Zionists.

He added: Several years ago, an Arab leader, commenting on the recovery of the occupied territories, said: What has been taken by force can only be recovered by force.

The next speaker, Sadeq Khalkhali, the deputy for Qom, said: Just as the MiG's could not save Saddam Husayn, the Mirage fighters manufactured in French Jewish plants, U.S. spare parts and America's collaboration with the puppet Israeli Government cannot save him either. They are trying to create a war in the region through cooperation with Israel [as heard]. Saddam and his cohorts, these Nazi criminals, must be put on trial in an Islamic court, for Saddam bears direct responsibility for the blood of thousands of Iraqi soldiers shed on the southern and western fronts.

The final speaker in today's meeting was Hoseyn Harati, the deputy for Sabzevar, who praised the latest Iranian victory and the recapture of Bostan. He said: In today's international arena, a committed Iranian Muslim revolutionary is thousands of times more dangerous to Eastern and Western imperialism than a neutron bomb. We hope to make heroes out of all the deprived and oppressed peoples of history by exporting our revolution: heroes with bombs in their hearts, who will not rest until the complete annihilation of the East and West and the establishment of Islamic justice; heroes who will herald the arrival of Mahdi, the savior.

The next open meeting of the Majlis will be held on Tuesday at 0800.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 720

LD061802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Dec 81

[Communique 720 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Following the victorious Jerusalem Path operations, various strata of the honorable and combative people of Iran, revolutionary institutes, government organizations and departments, Islamic societies and private companies and agencies have congratulated our combative brothers on their successes by sending numerous messages and telegrams, or by advertising in the country's press. We hereby thank all the brothers and sisters for their ungrudging support and ask God for success for all in attaining the holy aims of Islam and serving the Islamic homeland of Iran.

At 1030 today, antiaircraft units shot down one Iraqi MiG in the Chaghalvand sector. Its pilot received treatment for possible injuries. Exchanges of fire continued in the sectors to the west of Ahvaz, on the banks of the Karun and on the Abadan fronts. Thanks to the firing of the proud combatants of the ground forces in these sectors, 5 observation posts, 12 trenches and foxholes and an ammunition dump of the Saddamists were destroyed and 32 enemy soldiers killed or wounded.

Our forces also fired on enemy military installations in the Al-Faw sector, inflicting casualties on the enemy and damaging two of its tanks.

By bringing enemy positions beyond the Arvand Rud [Shatt al-'Arab] under fire, the combative police units destroyed an ammunition dump and a number of heavy- and light-weapons emplacements and killed a number of Iraqi military personnel.

Thanks to the firing of the combative personnel of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, two trenches and three observation posts of the enemy in the occupied sector of Khuninshahr were destroyed and five Iraqi personnel were killed or wounded.

Clashes and exchanges of fire between our forces and the enemy continued in the south of Sableh. Our combatants destroyed two tanks, a mortar, a machinegun and an ammunition dump and killed 14 and wounded a number of other Iraqis. In addition to the enemy aircraft shot down in that region, on 4 December one helicopter of the aggressors was downed by our combatants in the same area.

In the sector west of Dezful, the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran destroyed 15 enemy vehicles and their passengers, a mortar, an ammunition dump, 3 cannons, 6 trenches and foxholes, a command jeep and 4 personnel carriers and killed or wounded about 50 enemies of Islam.

Combative gendarmerie unit fire set ablaze three enemy trenches and three observation posts in the Qasr-e Shirin and Chaghalvand sector; and in the Bansiran sector, destroyed one enemy ammunition dump and four trenches.

Eight members of the Ground Forces and four of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred during the 4 December operations. Hail to their pure souls.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 721

LD071734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Communique 721 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran -- issued "tonight"]

[Text] In His exalted name. We inform our noble compatriots of some of the battles and self-sacrifices of the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the situation in the battlefronts.

Yesterday, on the Bostan fronts, our heroic fighters bravely defended their new positions and repulsed any activity or attacks by the remaining elements of the Iraqi forces on these fronts. With heavy artillery fire our forces inflicted effective blows upon them. At 1300 yesterday, the enemy again made a futile attack on one of the fronts; our powerful forces, while repulsing the attack, also achieved some successes.

Yesterday, the exchange of fire continued on the Abadan fronts and the fighters of the police unit, firing on enemy positions on the far side of the Arvand Rud, destroyed five weapons dumps, and observation posts and an assembly point. A number of Saddam's forces were killed or wounded.

On the fronts west of Dezful, our fighting forces bravely defended their positions. By firing on the blasphemous force of Saddam, they destroyed two tanks, one ammunition depot, one mortar, three trenches and one heavy machinegun position and killed nine of the enemy. More than 50 enemy forces were injured during these operations.

Yesterday, on one of the western fronts, artillery and heavy weapons fire by the personnel of the ground forces stopped movements and operations of the Iraqi forces, destroyed a number of their trenches and foxholes and damaged some of their trucks. In these operations, six Iraqi forces were killed and a number were wounded.

On other western fronts, sporadic exchanges of fire continued and some losses and injuries were inflicted on the enemy.

GUARDS CORPS COMMUNIQUE ON FIGHTING AT FRONTS

LD071804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Communique issued by the Command Council of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Tehran; date not given]

[Summary] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In a successful operation on the western fronts, the self-sacrificing guards brought the Iraqi post at Khozineh, on the Dehloran axis, under fire and killed a considerable number of the forces of Saddam. On the Nakhlestan and Zil fronts, heavy blows were also delivered to the Iraqi forces. A machinegun position and 2 enemy trenches were destroyed and at least 15 Iraqi troops were killed and more than 20 of them wounded.

On one of the fronts in Gilan-e Gharb, the guards opened fire on one of the enemy positions and killed 15 and arrested 1 of Saddam's troops. The guards also attacked the headquarters of the defunct Kurdish Democratic Party in Kutahqeran village, on the Takab-Bijar axis, and killed more than 30 of the counterrevolutionaries and wounded a number of them. In these operations, which resulted in the capture of five mercenaries, one guard was martyred.

In the southern regions on the Dehlaviyyeh-Khorramshahr axis the guards killed a number of enemy personnel and destroyed one of their vehicles and a number of their trenches. The guards brothers observed that the Navy of the Islamic Republic fired on the enemy communication lines and their personnel and armored positions and inflicted considerable losses on the Iraqis. A position of the Iraqi snipers came under the fire of our brothers and was completely destroyed. As the result of the fire of the guards brothers in other parts of this front, at least 8 machinegun and RPG-7 positions and a number of enemy assembly positions were completely destroyed. One communication line of the Ba'thists was attacked and blocked. On the fronts near Karum and Abadan, an enemy vehicle was destroyed and on Iraqi soldier was killed.

FOREIGN NEWSMEN REPORT ON BOSTAN INSPECTION

GF070910 Tehran PARS in English 1720 GMT 6 Dec 81

[Text] Tehran, 6 Dec, PARS NEWS AGENCY -- A group of Iranian and foreign reporters, who recently visited the newly liberated town of Bostan, southwest of Iran, 5 kms east of the Iraqi border, were able to form an idea of the scope of the battle fought in southwestern fronts on Sunday, Nov 29th, in the course of which some 1,500 Iraqi troops were killed, about 1,300 others captured and some 250 sq km of Iranian lands liberated.

The correspondents, inspecting the city of Bostan renamed "Tariq al-Quds" (Quds Way), reported that a banner fixed by the Islamic combatants of Iran in the city read "Fight until victory," from where the reporters said Iranian tanks were rumbling off for the nearby Iraqi borders.

Along the strategic road from Susangerd to Bostan the ground was pock-marked with the craters left by shells, according to the correspondents who also added that former Iraqi trenches had been cleaned up. They reported that the bodies of dead Iraqi soldiers had been lain out on the embankment next to a mine-field.

In Bostan, according to the reporters, one-third of the houses have been damaged. Elsewhere they reported that Iranian soldiers had displayed effects left from Iraqi troops, including a wine bottle, a helmet, a medal, a newspaper. Near the road, the correspondent said, Iranian soldiers were busy burying large numbers of dead Iraqi soldiers. However, there were still many Iraqi slain to be collected and buried.

The foreign team included French, Kuwaiti and Argentinian reporters.

PROSECUTOR GENERAL ON REHABILITATION OF REBELS

LD061814 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Dec 81

[Text] Mr Musavi-Tabrizi, the prosecutor general of the Islamic revolution, who has gone to eastern and western Azarbayjan to inspect the provincial Islamic revolution courts and prosecution office, met with Hojjat ol-Eslam Shaykh Moslem Malakuti, the imam's representative in and friday imam of Tabriz. After the meeting, Tabriz gave an interview to PARS in which he said that the Monafequin organization has not only lost its popular basis, but is also disintegrating from within. The return of its members in large numbers to the warm embrace of Islam and their collective repentance for their much-mistaken past constitute the most important blow struck at this organization. He said that the program of ideological rehabilitation of prisoners is progressing very favorably and that since the implementation of this program in the prisons along with ideological classes, 90 percent of the participating members and supporters of the Monafeqin have returned to the embrace of Islam and repented for their past deeds.

ARMED 'HYPOCRITES' ATTACK SHIRAZ BANK 7 DEC

GF071645 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 7 Dec 81

[Text] The Shiraz Islamic Revolution Guard Corps issued a communique today. It describes the failure of the Fahd plan and the so-called Bright Star maneuvers in the Middle East and says that following the great victory of the Jerusalem Way operation, [ostan victory], new plots have been arranged by the United States. The plots consist of ruining the economy and carrying out propaganda operations. [Words indistinct] with the help of the fugitives and internal hypocrites and with the cooperation of the mercenary capitalists, they are trying to topple the Islamic Republic of Iran by taking their money out of the banks and destroying government property -- which in reality is the property of the oppressed people of this country.

The hypocrites who have realized that their political and military assassinations have not succeeded, have begun carrying out economic plots. In carrying out this new policy of the arch-satan -- the United States -- today, a number of hypocrites launched an armed attack on the Mellat Bank [words indistinct] and were faced with the courageous reaction of one of the bank's guards and a policeman named [word indistinct]. They escaped after failing to steal the people's property. The blood of these two Muslim brothers is unveiling the new ugly face of the United States. [passage indistinct]

NEPAL

DPRK PRIME MINISTER CONCLUDES 4-DAY VISIT

Meeting With King

BK041659 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 4 Dec 81

[Text] His majesty the king granted an audience to Prime Minister of the DPRK Yi Chong-ok at the Royal Palace today. Present on the occasion were Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa, DPRK Minister Chong Song-nam and Ambassador Hwang To-ho.

Water Resources Minister Lal Bahadur Khadayat today called on Prime Minister of the DPRK Yi Chong-ok. The minister for the promotion of economic relations with foreign countries of DPRK, Chong Song-nam, today called on Industry Minister Balaram Ghartinagar. Chong later in the afternoon had talks with the national planning commission vice chairman, Dr Ratna Shumshere Rana.

5 Dec Reception

BK051606 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 5 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Prime Minister of the DPRK Yi Chong-ok has said the resourceful and industrious people of Nepal under the leadership the esteemed leader, his majesty the king, are making untiring efforts to consolidate national independence and for the independent development of the country. Addressing a civic reception organized in his honor by Katmandu town Panchayat in Katmandu today, Yi said his majesty's Government of Nepal has put forward the sixth 5-year plan for economic development and promoted the development tempo of the national economy, thereby increasing productivity and employment and making great progress in their vigorous endeavors to meet the basic needs of the people by themselves.

Yi observed in external relations, his majesty's government in pursuing an independent and peace-loving policy based on nonaligned principles while developing friendly relations with all countries over the world. The international prestige of his majesty's Government of Nepal is being enhanced with each passing day, he added.

He went on: Our people, under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, have thoroughly applied the immortal [word indistinct] ideas offered by him to all the fields of socialist construction with the result that our once backward country has been turned, in a short space of time, into a socialist country with a powerful heavy industry, modern light industry, developed rural economy and Korean national culture, he remarked. Today it is the greatest national desire for our people to reunify the divided homeland at the earliest possible date, he said.

Departure Statement

BK061519 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 6 Dec 81

[Excerpt] Prime Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK] Yi Chong-ok left Katmandu today at the end of his 4-day official visit to Nepal. Mr Yi was given a warm sendoff at the Tribhuvan International Airport by Prime Minister Surya Bahadur Thapa. A contingent of the Royal Nepal Army presented a salute to the DPRK premier at the VIP (?section) of the airport. Among those present at the airport to see off Mr Yi were the chief justice, the Rashtriya Panchayat chairman, the Raj Sabha standing committee chairman and other distinguished persons. In a statement before his departure, Mr Yi described his stay in Nepal as very joyful and useful while terming the visit as successful and fruitful. Mr Yi added: Through the current visit we have come to better understand how the industrious Nepalese people, under the dynamic leadership of his majesty the king, work hard to overcome difficulties lying on the road to progress, to defend national sovereignty and independence and to attain the goals of the new sixth 5-year plan while further consolidating their Panchayat system.

SRI LANKA

GOVERNMENT ORDERS PROBE ON SEPARATIST ATTEMPT

BK041425 Colombo WEEKEND in English 23 Nov 81 pp 1, 7

[By Ranil Weerasinghe]

[Text] The government has ordered a probe on an organized attempt by separatist groups to make a unilateral declaration of independence for a state of Eelam on January 14, 1982. This move follows intelligence reports that secret meetings are being held in this regard in certain houses in the city and the suburbs. This move is also believed to be aimed at sabotaging the attempts being made to establish better dialogue between the government and the TULF [Tamil United Liberation Front]. The groups, which are totally committed to separatism, have been carrying out propaganda campaigns abroad to collect funds and to focus attention to what they call the suppression of the minority ethnic groups through the gross distortion of events in Sri Lanka. The government has also been informed of posters calling for the declaration of a separate state appearing in Kalavanchikudi, a village in the east.

WEEKEND reliably understands that the campaign, which takes on the form of civil disobedience, has been orchestrated abroad and is to coincide with demonstrations in this respect. Several other foreign nations too have been notified of the proposed declaration with an appeal for recognition. A similar declaration of independence from Pakistan by the Awami League in Bangladesh led to a military clamp-down and subsequent intervention by Indian forces. Defence analysts anticipate that this campaign will be preceeded by a series of acts which will be aimed at focussing world attention on the minority ethnic group in the country.

The recent robbery of cash linked to the theft of arms, analysts state, could point to either action like a hijacking or bombing or an unprovoked attack on the police or armed forces for the express purpose of causing a violent backlash which could be used to set the foundation for the declaration of independence on the grounds of suppression. The intent of the well-armed and highly-trained terrorist group of the separatist movement is clear, analysts pointed out. The shooting of army officers and the deliberate leaving behind of his fingerprints by the terrorist leader Uma Mahesweram showed that the group was not backing down from the confrontation with the service that they earlier gave a wide berth to.

Much of this confidence appears to stem from the fact that the members of the proscribed Liberation Tiger organization have been trained in Lebanon and Kampuchea, while their ranks are expected to be further [expanded] by their counterparts presently in the French Foreign Legion. The terrorists in their last two strikes have shown that they are capable of striking outside the Jaffna Peninsula area and melting away into jungle hideouts. A major breakthrough was, however, made yesterday following the shooting of two terrorists and the recovery of the jeep stolen from the Vattackachchi farm over a month ago.

As a precautionary measure against this group attempting to precipitate ethnic violence through operations in the south, the Defence Ministry is to shortly establish two strategic checkpoints to monitor all movement from the Jaffna Peninsula to the south. These checkpoints are to be set up a Pooneryn and Cheddikulam and would function in the same manner as that manned at Elephant Pass.

Meanwhile, units of the Ceylon light infantry which were withdrawn earlier from Jaffna are to return to this area on completion of their anti-terrorist training. All army units which will be sent to Jaffna on a rotation basis will also receive comprehensive training in anti-terrorist warfare before their posting. The air force detachment at KKS [expansion unknown] has been heavily bolstered as a precaution against any sudden attack while the navy too is expected to play a more positive role in patrolling.